

HYALURONIC ACID-BASED GELS INCLUDING LIDOCAINE

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 [0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. provisional patent application number 61/085,956, filed August 04, 2008, U.S. provisional patent application number 61/087,934, filed on August 11, 2008, U.S. provisional patent application number 61/096,278, filed September 11, 2008, U.S. non-provisional application number 12/393,768, filed February 26, 2009 and U.S. non-provisional application number 12/393,884, filed February 26, 2009, the entire disclosures all of which are incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

15 [0002] The present invention generally relates to injectable soft tissue fillers and more specifically relates to hyaluronic acid-based dermal and subdermal fillers including an anesthetic agent.

BACKGROUND

20 [0003] It is generally accepted that as a person ages, the face begins to show effects of gravity, sun-exposure, and years of facial muscle movement, such as smiling, frowning, chewing and squinting. The underlying tissues that keep the skin appearing youthful begin to break down, often resulting in laugh lines, smile lines, "crow's feet" and facial creases often referred to as the "effects of aging."

25 [0004] In an effort to treat or correct the effects of aging, soft tissue fillers have been developed to help fill in facial lines and depressions and for restoring fat loss-related tissue volume loss. The soft tissue fillers thereby temporarily restore a smoother, more youthful appearance.

30 [0005] Ideally, soft tissue fillers are long-lasting, soft, smooth and natural appearing when implanted in the skin or beneath the skin. Further, soft tissue fillers are easy to implant into a patient using a fine gauge needle and require low extrusion force for injection. Ideal fillers would also cause no adverse

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